



CITY OF TUCSON



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NEWS RELEASE

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BODY FOUND IN INDUSTRIAL LAUNDRY COLLECTION BIN IN PHOENIX, ARIZONA

On the night of January 19, 2012, the Tucson Police Department was contacted by the Phoenix, Arizona Police Department regarding the body of a deceased adult male that had been found at a SODEXO industrial laundry facility in Phoenix earlier in the day. The victim was found by employees at the facility as they were processing a large bin of soiled linens. Phoenix Police began the investigation and determined that the laundry bin containing the victim had arrived by truck after having been picked up in Tucson. They further determined that the truck did not make any stops between Tucson and Phoenix, and that the victim had most likely been inside the bin when it was loaded onto the truck. The victim did not appear to have suffered any trauma, and there was no indication of foul play.

Through communication with the Tucson Police Department's Night Detectives Unit, the decision was made for the Tucson Police Department to take the primary investigative role, with the Phoenix Police Department providing assistance as necessary. The Tucson Police Department has determined that the laundry bin was collected from a medical facility on North Craycroft Road before being transported to Phoenix. Detectives have learned that a male matching the description of the victim had recently been found sleeping in a laundry collection bin at the Craycroft location, and had been told to leave. The victim has been tentatively identified as a homeless male, known to live in Tucson, and matches the description of the male previously found sleeping in the laundry bins. Next of kin have not yet been notified.

At this time, the indications are that the victim climbed into the laundry bin to sleep, and either died from an existing medical condition, or possibly suffocated amid the plastic bags of laundry. He was found with a bottle of liquor beside him. An autopsy will be performed in Phoenix to determine cause of death.

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